



# TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

## DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

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## PRESS RELEASE:

### **\$11.3 Million in Counterfeit Goods Seized by Shrewsbury Police**

On Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> 2023, at approximately 2:29PM, Shrewsbury officers were dispatched to the area of Holden St/ Bow St in Shrewsbury, for the report of multiple gunshots. Responding officers began searching the area, including the property of the Extra Space Storage facility located at 53 Clinton Street.

While checking the property of Extra Space Storage, officers observed multiple vehicles and encountered an individual in front of a storage unit. The investigation led officers into the storage unit which they observed this individual exiting. When officers entered the storage unit, they observed what appeared to be thousands of items of merchandise. The merchandise was neatly displayed on shelves, tables and boxes, and laid out in a manner similar to how they would be displayed in a retail store for sale.

Items observed included (but not limited to) handbags, sunglasses, hats, shoes, clothing, backpacks, cologne, phone cases, earbuds and umbrellas. Officers suspected that brand name items were counterfeit, and observed brands which included (but not limited to) Rolex, Gucci, Prada, Luis Vuitton, Chanel, Nike and North Face.

Officers also observed that the interior wall of 3 adjoining units had been removed, to essentially create a usable space equal to 3 units. After the patrol officers initial observations, Shrewsbury officers and detectives applied for and were granted search warrants to search the 3 storage units, as well as 2 vehicles located on scene.

The Shrewsbury Police Department recruited the assistance of Powers and Associates, out of Mattapoisett MA, to assist with the investigation. Powers and Associates represents over 60 trademark holders for the purpose of identifying manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers and retailers of counterfeit products. The expertise and knowledge provided by Powers and Associates was instrumental in this investigation, and their assistance came at zero cost for the Town of Shrewsbury.

As a result of this investigation, officers and detectives collected 16,644 items of evidence from the 3 storage units, at an estimated MSRP value of \$11.3 million dollars. Additionally, investigators seized 19 items from the 2 vehicles searched, worth an estimated MSRP value of \$44,920.

This investigation into this incident, and the identification of suspects remains active and ongoing at this time.